

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223298

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR GOR'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGION

REF: PARIS 21221

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOR AT LEVEL IT DEEMS
APPROPRIATE AND ASK THAT GOR DELEGATION TO 19TH UNESCO
GENERAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 30) SUPPORT
EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE BASE
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ITS ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS ON THE

WISHES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REGION CONCERNED, AND THAT WHEN THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ADOPTED, GOR DELEGATION SUPPORT THE APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF UNESCO REJECTED ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION, LEAVING ISRAEL ONLY MEMBER UNASSIGNED TO A REGIONAL GROUPING. THIS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GESTURE WAS ONE OF GC'S ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS THAT TRIGGERED CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF U.S. PAYMENTS TO UNESCO.

2. ACTION WAS SPEARHEADED BY ARAB AND MOSLEM STATES AND SUPPORTED BY USSR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS, EXCEPT FOR ROMANIA, WHICH WAS "ABSENT" DURING VOTE. IF GC HAD FOLLOWED TRADITION OF LEAVING A LARGELY REGIONAL MATTER TO REGIONAL GROUPING ITSELF, THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF WESTERN MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN REGION (WHICH ALSO INCLUDES EASTERN EUROPE, U.S. AND CANADA) WOULD HAVE INSURED ISRAEL'S ADMISSION. WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S SUPPORT, UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD LAST FALL RECOMMENDED THAT 19TH GC, IN UPDATING REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, BE GUIDED BY VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF RELEVANT REGION. (IN ADDITION TO ISRAEL, THREE NEW MEMBERS -- SURINAM, GRENADA AND SAN MARINO -- HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASSIGNED TO REGIONS.)

3. SUCCESS OF THIS MOVE WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER EE'S AND ARABS ARE PREPARED AT LEAST NOT TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE ISRAEL'S APPLICATION. IN NEXT FEW WEEKS DEPT. WILL SEEK SUPPORT WHEREVER THERE IS ANY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS, SINCE A FAVORABLE OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE IS PREREQUISITE TO RESUMPTION OF U.S. PAYMENTS TO UNESCO AND RESOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION'S GROWING FINANCIAL CRISIS.

4. GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO FUTURE OF U. S. RELATIONS WITH UNESCO AS WELL AS OF ORGANIZATION ITSELF, DEPT. HOPES ROMANIA WILL SUPPORT ADOPTION OF PROCEDURE TO GIVE REGIONS DETERMINING VOICE IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP, AND VOTE FOR ISRAEL'S INCLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGION. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE

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APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION TO GOR TO REQUEST ITS SUPPORT. WHILE AVOIDING IMPLICATION THAT IT IS QUID PRO QUO, EMBASSY SHOULD ASSURE GOR OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDATE, AMBASSADOR VALENTIN LIPPATI, FOR ONE OF FOUR EE PLACES ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR ROMANIAN SUPPORT OF U. S. IN UNESCO ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AND HOPE THAT ROMANIA WILL SUPPORT U. S. EFFORTS TO DEPOLITICIZE UNESCO, INCLUDING

OPPOSITION TO ANY FURTHER ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIONS BY GC.

5. IN ADDITION TO UNDERSCORING GRAVITY OF PRESENT CRISIS
IN U.S./UNESCO RELATIONS PRECIPITATED BY POLITICAL ACTS OF
PREVIOUS GC, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS FOLLOWING:

(A) THERE IS REAL DANGER THAT OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S
ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION COULD SERIOUSLY DIVIDE 19TH
GC TO THE GREAT DISPLEASURE OF AFRICAN AND OTHER THIRD
WORLD MEMBERS THAT ARE ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT DG M'BOW (FIRST
BLACK AFRICAN TO HEAD A MAJOR UN AGENCY) AND MAKE THIS GC,
THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN AFRICA, A SUCCESS.

(B) CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM EUROPEAN REGION
WOULD BE CERTAIN TO PROLONG CONGRESSIONAL FUND CUTOFF

AND UNESCO'S SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AT MINIMUM AND, AT
MAXIMUM, COULD GENERATE REACTIONS WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE
CONTINUED US PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO.

(C) CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL, IF DIRECTLY RELATED TO
EASTERN EUROPEAN OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN REGION, COULD
ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF SPLITTING EUROPEAN REGION INTO
WESTERN AND EASTERN COMPONENTS. A PROSPECT THAT GOR WOULD
SURELY NOT WELCOME. (SEE REFTEL.)

6. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS ASAP TO DEPT. AND U.S. PERMDEL
TO UNESCO.

7. FOR PARIS: PERMDEL MAY WISH TO INFORM ROMANIAN
AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO, MACOVEI, THAT WE ARE MAKING THIS
APPROACH AND FOLLOW-UP WITH FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER WE
HAVE RECEIVED REPORT FROM EMBASSY BUCHAREST. KISSINGER
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